(c) whether the requisition made by the Wasteland Development Board from the State of Rajasthan for allotment and allocation of barren land for purposes of afforestation has been finalised; if so, to what extent; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The percentage of forest area in relation to geographical area in Rajasthan as on 31-12-1983 was about 9 per cent.

(b) The State Government is implementing a number of afforestation schemes under social forestry, soil conservation and rural development programmes, in addition to complementary action by voluntary agencies.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board has not requisitioned any wasteland for the purpose of afforestation from the Government of Rajasthan.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of 20-Point Programme

1166. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise break-up figures of the development through the implementation of 20-Point Programme for the year 1985-86;

(b) what is the extent of development among the persons below the poverty line;

(c) whether it is a fact that 20-Point Programme has not been implemented in some States;

(d) what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Central Government have issued directives to the State Governments for speedy implementation of the Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHARY): (a) The State-wise progress of implementation during the year 1985-86 upto January, 1986 of the 20 items under the 20-Point Programme for which monthly reports are received is set out in statement. [See Appendix XXXVII. Annexure No. 16].

(b) The information relating to number of persons below the poverty line is available for two points of time viz. 1977-78 and 1983-84. According to provisional estimates during this period the number of persons below the poverty line has decreased from 48.3 per cent in 1977-78 to 37.4 per cent in 1983-84.

(c) No, Sir. All the States are implementing the 20-Point Programme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) From time to time, Government of India is writing to the States for speedy implementaton of the Programme.

Progress of Various Projects

1167. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what progress in implementation of the (a) Mejhia Power Project, (b) Farakka Thermal Project, and (c) Dankuni Coal Gasification Project have been made; and

(b) what steps have been taken to expedite the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHARY): (a) The progress in implementation of the projects is as below:

(i) *Mejhia Power Project*: in the absence of the expenditure sanction, the implementation work has not started.

(ii) *Farakka STPP stage-I* (600 MW): The project is expected to